

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 9, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1838

Introduced by Senators Perata and Florez

February 24, 2006

~~An act to add Sections 129856 and 129880 to the Health and Safety~~
An act to amend Section 129856 of, and to add Sections 129880 and 129881 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1838, as amended, Perata. Health facilities: construction plans.

The existing Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983 requires design and construction standards for hospital buildings that house patients who have less than the capacity of normally healthy persons to protect themselves. Existing law also requires that those standards specify that hospitals must be reasonably capable of providing services to the public after a disaster. Existing law requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to approve or reject all plans for the construction or alteration of a hospital building. *Existing law specifically requires the office, contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to establish a program for training Fire and Life Safety Officers to facilitate the timely performance of the office's duties and responsibilities relating to the review of plans and specifications pertaining to the design and observation of construction of hospital buildings, as specified.*

This bill, *in addition*, would authorize the office to establish ~~a training program~~ *programs as necessary* to ensure that a sufficient number of qualified persons are available to facilitate the timely performance of the office's duties and responsibilities, as specified.

The bill would authorize the office to exempt from its plan review process construction or alteration projects for hospital buildings and certain other buildings with estimated construction costs of \$50,000 or less if specified criteria are met. The bill would require a presubmittal meeting between the office and the design professionals for construction or alteration projects for those buildings with estimated construction costs of \$20,000,000 or more.

This bill would also require the office to assess processing time for plan review and to provide an update of this assessment to the Legislature no later than February 1, 2007, and no later than February 1 of each year thereafter.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 *SECTION 1. Section 129856 of the Health and Safety Code,*
- 2 *as added by Section 24 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2006, is*
- 3 *amended to read:*
- 4 *129856. (a) Contingent on an appropriation in the annual*
- 5 *Budget Act, the office shall establish a program for training Fire*
- 6 *and Life Safety Officers. The goal of this program shall be to*
- 7 *provide a sufficient number of qualified persons to facilitate the*
- 8 *timely performance of the office's duties and responsibilities*
- 9 *relating to the review of plans and specifications pertaining to*
- 10 *the design and observation of construction of hospital buildings*
- 11 *described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (b) of Section*
- 12 *129725, in order to ensure compliance with applicable facility*
- 13 *design and construction codes and standards.*
- 14 *(b) The office shall prepare a comprehensive report on the*
- 15 *training program setting forth its goals, objectives, and structure.*
- 16 *The report shall include the number of Fire and Life Safety*
- 17 *Officers to be trained annually, a timeline for training*
- 18 *completion, a process for gathering information to evaluate the*
- 19 *training programs efficiency that includes dropout and retention*
- 20 *rates, and a mechanism to annually assess the need for the*

1 *training program to continue. The report shall be submitted to*
2 *the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by April 1, 2007.*

3 *(c) The office may establish other training programs as*
4 *necessary to ensure that a sufficient number of qualified persons*
5 *are available to facilitate the timely performance of the office's*
6 *duties and responsibilities relating to the review of plans and*
7 *specifications pertaining to the design and construction of*
8 *hospital buildings and buildings described in paragraphs (2) and*
9 *(3) of subdivision (b) of Section 129725, to ensure compliance*
10 *with applicable safety codes and standards.*

11 ~~SECTION 1. Section 129856 is added to the Health and~~
12 ~~Safety Code, to read:~~

13 ~~129856. The office may establish a training program to~~
14 ~~ensure that a sufficient number of qualified persons are available~~
15 ~~to facilitate the timely performance of the office's duties and~~
16 ~~responsibilities relating to the review of plans and specifications~~
17 ~~pertaining to the design and construction of hospital buildings~~
18 ~~and buildings described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision~~
19 ~~(b) of Section 129725, to ensure compliance with applicable fire~~
20 ~~and life safety codes and standards.~~

21 SEC. 2. Section 129880 is added to the Health and Safety
22 Code, to read:

23 129880. (a) The office may exempt from its plan review
24 process construction or alteration projects for hospital buildings
25 and buildings described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision
26 (b) of Section 129725 with estimated construction costs of fifty
27 thousand dollars (\$50,000) or less. The criteria for exemption
28 shall include, but not be limited to, plans that have been stamped
29 and signed by the design professionals of record.

30 (b) Projects that have been split into a series of smaller
31 projects in order to avoid the qualifying dollar limits shall not be
32 approved. The office shall maintain its construction observation
33 mandate to ensure public safety and California Building
34 Standards Code compliance for approved projects.

35 (c) A presubmittal meeting between the office and the design
36 professionals shall be required for construction or alteration
37 projects for hospital buildings and buildings described in
38 paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 129725 with
39 estimated construction costs of twenty million dollars
40 (\$20,000,000) or more.

1 (d) The office may adopt regulations for this section to make
2 specific the exemption criteria and processes authorized pursuant
3 to subdivision (a), and the complete plan review process required
4 pursuant to subdivision (c).

5 *SEC. 3. Section 129881 is added to the Health and Safety*
6 *Code, to read:*

7 *129881. The office shall assess processing time for plan*
8 *review, and shall provide an annual update on this assessment to*
9 *the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature*
10 *no later than February 1, 2007, and no later than February 1 of*
11 *each year thereafter.*